

**CITY OF CHICOPEE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of Meeting  
June 16, 2021**

**Pursuant to Mass. General Law Ch. 131, Section 40 and the Chicopee Wetland Ordinance Ch. 272, the Chicopee Conservation Commission held a public hearing on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 6:15 PM.**

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**Celeste Donovan opened the meeting at 6:15 PM and announced that the meeting was being recorded.**

Conservation Commission attendance:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Celeste Donovan	X		
Charles Payne	X		
Sharon Balcom			X
Meghan Balakier	X		
Richard Valcourt	X		
Brian Nunes			X

Planning/Conservation Staff attendance:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Lee Pouliot, Director			X
James Dawson, Development Manager	X		
Patrick McKenna, Assistant Planner			X
Nathan Moreau, Associate Planner			X

**Item 1: (Continued from April 7, 21 and May 5 and 19, 2021) NOI** for Chicopee Reservoir Annual Drawdown and Vegetation Management Project. Work will include removal of vegetation within 20’ of the reservoir dam and for a five year authorization of the annual drawdown of the reservoir for maintenance purposes. Work will occur within Inland Bank, Bordering Vegetated Wetland, Land Under Waterways and Waterbodies, Riverfront Area and Buffer Zone. Location: Chicopee Memorial State Park – 570 Burnett Rd., Chicopee, MA 01020. Applicant: Sean Gaffney, Massachusetts DCR, 1048 North Rd., Westfield, MA 01085

**Notes:** Staff reported the Applicant requested a continuance to July 7, 2021

Motion to continue to July 7, 2021 was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Meghan Balakier. Vote was 4-0 to continue to July 7, 2021.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Deny</b>	<b>Continue</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Celeste Donovan			X	
Charles Payne			X	
Meghan Balakier			X	
Richard Valcourt			X	

**Item 2: (Cont. from June 2, 2021) NOI** for reconstruction of severely deteriorated retaining wall and associated site work including erosion control. Work will occur within Riverfront Area of the Chicopee River. Location: 225-227 East Main St, Chicopee, MA 01020. Applicant: Juan Almestica, 227 East Main St., Chicopee, MA 01020.

**Notes:** Neither the Applicant nor his representative Ryan Nelson of R. Levesque Associates were able to attend the hearing however, Mr. Nelson did contact Staff to explain he could not be in attendance due to a meeting conflict. Staff advised him that there was a possibility the Commission may continue the hearing if no one was in attendance. Mr. Nelson understood that possibility. Staff noted they had not received any public comments. The Commissioners were satisfied that they had enough information from the hearing on June 2, 2021 to be able to issue an Order of Conditions (OOC) with special conditions and voted to issue the OOC.

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions with Conditions was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Meghan Balakier. Vote was 4-0 to issue an Order of Conditions with conditions.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			

**Item 3: Minutes** from June 2, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Meghan Balakier and seconded by Richard Valcourt. Vote was 4-0 to approve.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			

**Item 4: Sign Bills** – Staff noted there was one bill to sign.

**Item 5: Upcoming Projects/Discussion**

- **Enforcement Order** – 535 East Main Street – The recipient of the Enforcement Order or a representative to present plan illustrating the boundaries of protected resource areas as they existed prior to the disturbance and provide documentation on how those boundaries were established.

The Recipient of this Enforcement Order shall cause the Consultant to collect samples of fill materials imported to the property for chemical analysis per the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) 310 CMR 40.00 so as to confirm the presence or lack thereof of any hazardous materials regulated by the MCP. Report to be submitted to the Chicopee Conservation Commission with the above described plan set, and any required reporting to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) completed.

**Notes:** Joe Rogers of GZA presented on behalf of the property owner. Mr. Rogers provide information on the delineations and soil sampling that was required by June 16, 2021 by the Commission in the Enforcement Order. Commissioner Valcourt questioned the method by which the soil samples were taken and he also questioned why soil samples were not taken at the surface but only at certain depths. Mr. Rogers explained the method to the Commission. Commissioner Valcourt requested a timeline for when the results of the soil sampling would be made available to the Commission. Staff asked if there had been any erosion of the fill material into the river during heavy rain events. Mr. Rogers noted that there had been some erosion into the river but it was very minimal. Commissioner Donovan read into the record of the meeting what the next required steps were in order to comply with the Enforcement Order. Mr. Rogers acknowledged he understood.

**Item 6: Adjournment** – Next scheduled meeting is July 7, 2021

Motion to adjourn was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Richard Valcourt. Vote was 4-0 to adjourn.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Deny</b>	<b>Continue</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Celeste Donovan	<b>X</b>			
Charles Payne	<b>X</b>			
Meghan Balakier	<b>X</b>			
Richard Valcourt	<b>X</b>			

**Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.**